

BEGINNING BIBLE STUDIES

2

STUDY INSTRUCTIONS **Please Read Carefully**

1. The King James Bible is the text used to prepare these Bible study courses, but you may use your own Bible.
2. Please read the lesson material carefully and then complete all the test questions at the end of the section.
3. Send the Test with your answers to the address listed below.. Please do not send the lesson material, it is yours to keep for future reference..
4. Please make sure your name is on the test before you mail it back.
5. Your tests will be graded and the results sent back to you as you finish each of the courses. At the end, you will be sent a **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION**.

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This is Part 2 of 2 of the “**Beginning Bible Studies**” series. At the conclusion of both parts, there are other studies available and ready for you:

Survey of the Old Testament, Making Sense of the Bible, the Life of Christ, the book of Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Hebrews/Galatians, the Epistles of the New Testament, the book of Revelation, The Church of the Bible and a brand new course on the religion of Islam.

BEGINNING BIBLE SERIES - PART 2

LESSON ONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT

In our studies so far, we've learned:

- God is the creator of all things
- God is eternal -- he has no beginning and no ending
- God is all-powerful
- God is all-knowing
- God is all-sufficient -- he needs nothing

Another thing about God is taught in Acts 17:26-28: *"And hath made of **one blood all nations of men** for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should **seek the Lord**, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though **he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being**; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."*

"**One blood**" means that any human being anywhere in the world can give a blood transfusion to another human being. "**Not far from us**" means that we have a beautiful world that declares the glory of God and that there are Bibles everywhere for us to learn about God. "**Live**" and "**move**" mean that God is in control of the world and also of those who live in the world, if we want to be under his control.

We've also learned:

- God has shown his love through Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ is the son of God
- Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies
- Jesus Christ is the great gift of God's grace
- Jesus Christ is the savior of all mankind.

Now, where does the Holy Spirit fit into God's great plan? If there is a Bible subject that really needs to be studied, it is the Bible's teachings on the Holy Spirit!

1 John 5:7,8 says, *"For there are three that bear record in **heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."* By the way, the King James Bible uses the phrase "Holy Ghost" and that is the same as the "Holy Spirit."

So, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit are in **heaven**, but they are also here on **earth** but how are they here on earth?

Ephesians 3:16-19 tells us, *"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with **might by his Spirit in the inner man** that **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the **fulness of God.**"*

The New Testament teaches that **God, Christ and the Holy Spirit do dwell in our hearts by faith.**

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

In order to bring about the fulfillment of God’s plan, the Bible was given by God to man to teach us about his love, how he was going to show his love, how he did show his love and what we should do about his love. And God **used the Holy Spirit** to inspire the Bible as we’re taught in 2 Peter 1:21, *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were **moved by the Holy Ghost.**”*

Our faith comes from the Bible and we learn that the Holy Spirit **uses the Bible** as the sword with which he fights against sin.

“Ephesians 6:17 teaches, *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**”*

What about those wonderful miracles the Holy Spirit did in the New Testament days? They were done by the Holy Spirit for a purpose, but what was the purpose? Hebrews 2:1-4 tells us:

*“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word **spoken by angels** (this was the Old Testament) was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so **great salvation;** (this was the New Testament) which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed** unto us by them that heard him, God also bearing them witness, both with **signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**”*

God confirmed the word spoken by Jesus, the apostles and the early Christians with Holy Spirit miracles. But what does the Bible mean when it uses the word “confirm”? Well, if a Christian went to a place and talked about Jesus, the people wouldn’t believe him. **But** if he went to a place, did a miracle in the name of Christ, **then** the people would listen to the gospel. That’s what “confirm” means.

Many claim to be able to do miracles today, but they also believe the Bible is complete. Check this out:

- The Holy Spirit did miracles in the New Testament to confirm the gospel spoken
- The gospel is complete
- Therefore, there is no more need for Holy Spirit miracles today

You can’t have a complete Bible and miracles done today. Think about it.

Today, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit all dwell in our hearts by faith and we’ve learned that *“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God**”* (Romans 10:17).

God, through the Holy Spirit, inspired the Bible and that’s how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of men today. The Bible is not the Holy Spirit, but when we turn away from the Bible and don’t do what it teaches, then we “quench the spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

LESSON TWO: THE CHURCH - Part 1

We have had some good studies about basic Bible principles such as love, grace, sin, Jesus our savior, what God has done for sinful man and what we must do for God.

We've also learned a great lesson from Matthew 7:21: "*Not every one that **saith** unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.*" The bottom line of our relationship to Jesus is that it's not enough to just **believe**, we had better **do** what he teaches!

But, after we **believe** in Jesus, **repent** of our sins and are **baptized** into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, what then? **What do Christians do after they're saved? Where do Christians go after they're saved? And, where are the saved?**

The New Testament teaches that the saved are in the church! Acts 2:47, "*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved*".

We've learned that Christians are indeed believing and repentant people who have been baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3,4) and have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). And the result? "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Christians are people who are in Christ!

Now, Colossians 1:18 teaches: "*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*"

Christians who are in Christ are in his body, the church!

In the next couple of lessons, we will learn about the church, the body of Christ: what it **is**, how it is **organized**, how it **worships**, what it is **called** and other important lessons all saved people need to know. Like all of our studies, we will use only the Bible as we continue studying.

HOW OLD IS THE CHURCH?

The word "*church*" means "the called out of God" and 2 Thessalonians 2:14 tells us how we are called out: "*Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" When the gospel (truth) is preached, people who believe it and obey its conditions have answered the call of God and are in the church. **The church is not a building; it is the saved people who meet in a building.**

The church is as old as the first century, specifically in Acts chapter 2. Any church younger than Acts 2 or older than Acts 2 is not the church of the Bible!

Sometimes the words "church" and "kingdom" are used to refer to the same thing, the people who are called out of the world by the gospel of Christ. Matthew 16:18,19 teaches: "*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*"

Here the Lord tells Peter that the “church” and “kingdom” are indeed are the same thing.

Now, let’s study **when** the kingdom/church came to earth from heaven.

Jesus taught in Mark 9:1: “*Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the **kingdom of God come with power.***”

The kingdom/church was to come with power in the lifetime of some people listening to Christ.

Jesus promised power to the apostles in Acts 1:8: “*But ye shall receive **power**, after that the **Holy Ghost is come upon you**: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*”

The power came upon the apostles in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, in Acts 1:26-2:4, we find **when** the power of the Holy Ghost came and upon **whom** it came.

“*And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven **apostles**. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, **they** were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where **they** were sitting. and there appeared unto **them** cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of **them**. And **they** were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave **them** utterance.*” The power of the Holy Ghost came in **Acts 2**. It fell upon the **apostles** and they began to speak with other tongues.

The church/kingdom was established, by power from on high, in Acts chapter 2.

From Acts 2 until today, people who become Christians are added to the church. “*And the **Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved**” (Acts 2:47).*

LESSON THREE: THE CHURCH - Part 2

We’re still in Acts 2 when the people cried out, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*” (Verse 37). You talk about conviction; these people were convicted of their sins, so what did Peter tell them to do?

“*Then Peter said unto them, “**Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost**; for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall **call**. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:38-41).*

These first Christians **believed** in the Lord, **repented** of their sins and were **baptized** into Christ for the **remission** of their sins. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit came to live, by faith, in them and they were added to the church.

Now, **what were they called?** At first, these followers of Christ were called disciples and the word “disciple” means “one who learns; one who receives teaching”, but later on, we read in Acts 11:26, “*And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch.*”

The name “**Christian**” was the “new name prophesied in Isaiah 62:2: “*And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.*” It was God who gave the name “Christian” to the followers of his son.

Religious people today who call themselves by other names ought to put all those man-made names on the shelf and call themselves just Christian!

THE TEMPLE OF GOD

The church is also called by other names in the Bible such as the **temple** of God.

*“Know ye not that ye are the **temple of God**, and that the Spirit of **God dwelleth** in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Corinthians 3:16,17).*

We also learn in Revelation 21:3: “*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God** is with men, and he will **dwel**l with them, and they shall be his **people**, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*”

The church is the temple (tabernacle) of God because he dwells in the church, the church is his people and God is with the church.

THE FAMILY OF GOD

When a sinner is “born again”, he becomes a child of God so the Bible tells us that another name for the church is the **family of God**.

*“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is the **church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).* Families live in houses and the church is where God lives.

We know that born-again people have God as their father as John teaches us in John 3:5, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*”

But what does it mean to be “born of water and the spirit?” The answer is in Acts 2:38, “*Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost**.*”

A HOLY NATION AND A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Christians are in this world but, when they die, will be out of this world! We are holy people and a royal priesthood as we are taught in 1 Peter 2:9, “*But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Peter 2:9).*

How does a person become a king and a priest, the royal priesthood of God? The answer is in Revelation 1:5,6, *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Remember what we learned in Romans 6:3,4? *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:3,4).

Notice this:

- Jesus shed his **blood** when he died
- We are **baptized** into his **death**
- Therefore, we are **washed in the blood of the lamb when we are baptized.**

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Christ is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18), but a head must have a body! Scientists try to keep brains alive in the laboratory, but brains must have a body to function as a human being. We know that, don't we? Well, the church is the **body** of Christ and he functions to the world through his body.

*“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his **body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all”* (Ephesians 1:22,23). The church is the body of Christ and he is our head as we are reminded from Colossians 1:18: *“And he is the head of the **body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*** **“Preeminence”** means that the church does what Christ tells it to do.

How many bodies does Christ have? There is a scripture in Ephesians 4:4-6 that puts a lot of things into perspective in our mixed-up religious world today. And we are mixed up, aren't we? We can read this scripture and we can become unmixed!

*“There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord**, **one faith**, **one baptism**, **one God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”* (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Christians have only **one** God, **one** Spirit, **one** hope, **one** Christ, **one** faith and **one** baptism. And there is only **one** body, the **one** true **church** about which you read in the New Testament. There were no denominations in the New Testament, but only the church you can read about in the Bible.

LESSON FOUR: THE CHURCH, Part 3

How do you describe American Christianity? Hundreds of different churches are all after you, your membership, your money and your commitment. And they all advertise in the phone book! That's why I call what Americans religiously practice **“Phone Book Christianity.”** Your phone book lists the names of scores of **different denominations** with **different names**, the majority of which are not even found in the Bible.

Let's look at the New Testament and let it tell us what kind of names God wants to call his people.

THE NAMES OF THE CHURCH AND MEMBERS OF IT

Seventy-seven times in the New Testament, the people of God are simply called “**the church**.” However, there are some specific names given as well.

“*Unto the **church of God** which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours*” (1 Corinthians 1:2). The church **belongs to God because we are his family**.

“*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** salute you*” (Romans 16:16). The church belongs to Christ **because he died for us and he is the head of the church**, not some person in Italy, Utah or Brooklyn.

“*And **believers** were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.*” (Acts 54:14). These saved people were added to the Lord by the Lord (Acts 2:47) because of **what** they believed and **in whom** they believed.

“*Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons*” (Philippians 1:1). **All Christians are saints** (set apart from the world) and not just those recognized by the Rome, Italy, church.

“*And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch*” (Acts 11:26). The word “Christian” means “**one who belongs to Christ**.”

“*And upon the first day of the week, when the **disciples** came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight*” (Acts 20:7). As we’ve seen, the word “disciple” means “**one who is a learner**.”

Now, let’s use a little common sense. When people marry, the wife takes the name of her husband (in most cases!). I would not want my wife to be called by any other name except mine. Likewise, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved***” (Acts 4:12). **Let’s call ourselves “Christians”, nothing more and nothing less.**

LESSON FIVE: THE CHURCH, Part 4

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

God’s plan for his church’s organization is very simple. Christ is the **head** of the whole church and the New Testament is the **only law** which God gave to the church. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect, thoroughly (thoroughly) furnished** unto all good works*” (2 Timothy 3:16,17). It is to the New Testament that we turn to learn from heaven as to how the church is organized.

You find nowhere in the New Testament where there is an organization over two or more churches, or over the whole church worldwide. The New Testament only has organization for **local churches**. **Each local church** is independent from others, but is in fellowship with those who are teaching and practicing the Bible. Each church has its own leaders and each church is overseen by elders and serviced by deacons.

Elders are called several names in the New Testament: **elders, bishops, overseers**. *“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work”* (1 Timothy 3:1).

Elders are also called “**pastors**” in the New Testament and this word means “**shepherds**.” *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors (elders)** and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:11,12). The New Testament never calls a preacher “pastor” unless he also is an elder as was the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:1: *“The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am **also an elder**.”*

You also see something else in the New Testament that you don’t see in the modern day religious world. In the New Testament, there was always **more than one elder overseeing a local church**. *“Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops and deacons**”* (Philippians 1:1). There was one church in Philippi and more than one elder and more than one deacon working with it. *“And when they had ordained them **elders in every church**, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed”* (Acts 14:23).

Some modern day churches are run by deacons, but the New Testament nowhere calls a deacon an overseer (or elder). **Deacons** are leaders who serve under the elders. The word “deacon” means “**one who serves**.” Some modern day churches are run by preachers, but the New Testament never says a preacher is to run the church: he is just to preach the gospel.

Deacons and preachers do not oversee the church: the elders do. At least, this is the way it is in Bible churches.

We have to point out here that not everyone can be an elder or a deacon. Turn to 1 Timothy 1:8-13 and Titus 1:6-11 and you will see what a man has to do to qualify for these offices. And, when you read, notice that elders, deacons and preachers in the New Testament were **always men**. This is no accident and it certainly wasn’t designed by God to put women down. **Women just weren’t elders, deacons or preachers in the New Testament days.** No church can have elders or deacons until they have men who meet these qualifications or requirements.

THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

The New Testament teaches us that the church meets to worship God on the **first day of the week**, the day we call **Sunday**. *“And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight”* (Acts 20:7).

Our worship on the Lord’s day is guided by the two principles of John 4:24: *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in **spirit and in truth**.”* Notice this word “spirit” is with a small “s”, while God is described as being a spirit with a capital “S”. This means that we worship God according to the truth of the New Testament in our own hearts.

There are two things that the New Testament teaches are to be done on the Lord’s Day (Sunday).

One is the **Lord’s Supper**. *“And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight”* (Acts 20:7). Some churches take the Supper on every day of the week and some do not take the Supper but once or twice a year. The New Testament teaches that the Supper is to be taken **only** on the first day of the week and **every** first day of **every week**.

The purpose of the Lord's Supper is taught in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26): "*For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread (unleavened bread) and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, (fruit of the vine or grape juice) when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.*" Let us take the Lord's Supper today as it was taken in the New Testament.

Two: The other thing that is done on the Lord's Day is the **giving** of our money back to God. "*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come*" (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). Christians may give money at any time for good causes, but the money given on the Lord's Day is a part of our **worship!**

The New Testament teaches that these two things must be done **only on Sunday**; however, there are other items of worship that Christians may do any time.

Christians worship God by **prayers** of thanksgiving, praise and request. "*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*" (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

Christians worship God by **studying** and **teaching God's word**. "*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine*" (1 Timothy 4:13).

Christians worship God by **singing** praises to him. "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:19). "*I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee*" (Hebrews 2:12). The human heart is God's instrument and any instrument made by man was not used in the New Testament and is not allowed today in Christian worship.

LESSON SIX: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Jesus is coming again. "*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also*" (John 14:1,2).

WHEN IS CHRIST COMING AGAIN?

"*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only*" (Matthew 24:36). **No man** knows when Jesus will return again; not even the **angels** in heaven know. We only know that he will return and we believe exactly what the New Testament teaches.

No one knows when Jesus is coming again. "*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night*" (1 Thessalonians 5:1,2). The "**day of the Lord**" refers to the second coming of Christ which will be like a "thief in the night" meaning it will be totally unexpected.

Men try to predict when Christ will return. These predictions have all been wrong because they are **totally without Bible authority**. Christ will come when he is not expected and we must be prepared every minute for him.

HOW IS CHRIST COMING?

The apostles were told by the angels that Jesus would return the same way he went back to heaven. *“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so **come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven”* (Acts 1:11). It is Jesus who went back to heaven and it is Jesus who will be returning and we will *“...meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we **ever** be with the Lord”* (1 Thessalonians 4:17). The word “ever” means that Jesus will not return to earth as many today teach.

Some religious people witness that Jesus returned in 1914, but only a select few saw him. This is not what the Bible teaches. *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and **all** kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”* (Revelation 1:7).

Jesus has not returned to receive his own yet because *“...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the **dead in Christ shall rise first**: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

Some religious people believe that this scripture teaches a secret and very quiet “rapture.” There is nothing **quiet** about a **shout, voice and trump**, is there? Besides, the word “rapture” is found nowhere in the New Testament.

We often use the phrase “second coming of Christ” to refer to that time when Jesus will return in the clouds. It’s okay for us to use the phrase “second coming” to refer to Christ’s return, but the only time in the New Testament where the word “second” is mentioned is in Hebrews 9:28 teaches: *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he **appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.”* At that second appearing, *“...every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him”* (Revelation 1:7).

Don’t be deceived by false teachings about the second return of Christ!

WHY IS CHRIST COMING AGAIN?

Some teach that evil people will never rise from the grave. Some teach that good people and bad people will be raised at different times. This confusion is cleared up when we read: *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice**, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”* (John 5:28,29). **All the dead will be raised at the same time.**

Faithful, obedient Christians will meet Christ in the air and from there will go to heaven with him.

When Christ comes again, he will **deliver up the kingdom** to God, **not** set up the kingdom. **The kingdom is the church and is already on earth.** *“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power”* (1 Corinthians 15:24).

The **world will be destroyed** at the second coming of Christ. We again remind ourselves what 2 Peter 3:10 says, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* **When Jesus appears again, people will no longer live on the earth because the earth will be destroyed by fire.** Are you ready for the second coming of Christ?

LESSON SEVEN: THE JUDGMENT, HEAVEN AND HELL

The day of judgment is coming when God will judge the world through his son, Jesus Christ. *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead”* (Acts 17:30,31).

No person will escape the judgment. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

And it will be the Bible that will judge us. *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48).

WE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS

2 Corinthians 5:10 (quoted above) says that we’re going to be judged by what we have **done**, whether it be good or bad.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath” (Romans 2:6-8). We have to ask, **“What are we doing with our lives right now?”**

“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17). Do you know what’s good? Obeying what God has written in the New Testament. Do you know what’s bad? Not listening to God teaching us through the Bible.

SOME WILL BE LOST AND LIVE FOREVER IN A PLACE CALLED HELL

Hell is not a place prepared for people, but is a place prepared for the **devil** and his **angels**. *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Matthew 25:41). No, hell was not made not for us, but many will go there because of **disobedience to God**.

Hell is described in the Bible as a **fire** which never stops burning. *“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched”* (Mark 9:4i7,48).

Hell is described as a place of **great darkness** where people weep in pain and grind their teeth together. *“And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 25:30).

Hell is described as the **second death**. *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”* (Revelation 21:8).

The first death is when our souls leave our bodies; the second death is when a soul is separated from God.

Like heaven, hell is also **eternal**. *“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal”* (Matthew 25:46).

Please take a good, close look at 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”*. People who don't obey the gospel will be lost forever. Don't be in that number; do what the Bible teaches you to do.

FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS WILL LIVE FOREVER IN A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

Wicked unbelievers and unfaithful people will indeed go to hell, but faithful Christians will receive eternal life in heaven. *“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to **prepare a place** for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know”* (John 14:2-4).

Heaven is a **prepared place** for a **prepared people**. Faithful Christians prepare their entire lives to go to heaven because it is God's final reward for those who love him. Heaven is a beautiful place. There is nothing bad in heaven – no pain, sickness, sadness, trouble or death. There is no hate, no prejudice and no fear – only peace, happiness and every good thing.

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:1-4).

As we have seen, the “tabernacle of God” is the church because God dwells in the church and we remind you of 1 Timothy 3:15 again, *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is the **church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1 Timothy 3:15). God lives in his house, the church.

The church on earth is made up of people who have obeyed just the gospel of Christ and who are living Christian lives, waiting for that Final Day of Judgment.

The message of Christ's salvation is the gospel. The gospel is the way we must go if we are to go to heaven (John 14:1,2). When we obey the gospel, we begin preparations for the judgment. Are you prepared? Prepare now so that you can have a home with Jesus in heaven. Please let us know if we can assist you in becoming a Christian, a member of Christ's church, "*which he hath purchased with his own blood*" (Acts 20:28).

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TEST QUESTIONS

Beginning Bible Studies - Part 2

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH? _____

LESSON ONE: The Holy Spirit

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. The word "eternal" means **A** Has no beginning **B** Has no ending **C** Both of these
2. The sword with which the Holy Spirit fights sin is **A** Miracles **B** The Bible **C** Unknown tongues
3. Today, God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts by **A** Emotions **B** Feelings **C** The Bible
4. The phrases "Holy Spirit" and "Holy Ghost" are **A** The same **B** Different
5. God has shown his love for man by **A** The Bible **B** Jesus **C** both of these

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | | | | |
|---|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1. Asian people cannot give blood to an African | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 2. You can't have a complete Bible and miracles today | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 3. God confirmed his word through the miracles of the Holy Spirit | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 4. God did not confirm his word through the miracles of the Holy Spirit | T | _____ | F | _____ |
| 5. The sword of the spirit is the word of God | T | _____ | F | _____ |

LESSON TWO: The church, part 1

Fill in the blanks

1. The word "church" means "the _____ of God."
2. Colossians 1:18, "And he is the _____ of the body, the _____."
3. Matthew 7:21, "Not every one that _____ unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the _____ of heaven but he that _____ the _____ of my father which is in heaven"
4. 2 Corinthians 5:7, "Therefore, if any man be _____ Christ, he is a new _____; _____ things are passed away; behold, all things are become _____."
5. "Whereunto he _____ you by our _____ to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. The head of the church is **A** the pope **B** Joseph Smith **C** the elders **D** Christ
2. The church was established in **A** Acts chapter 2 **B** 1514 **C** has not been established yet
3. Christians are people **A** who been baptized as babies **B** have not been baptized **C** have been baptized into Christ
4. The “church” and “kingdom” are **A** the same thing **B** different **C** not yet come
5. Some of the people who heard Jesus preach **A** were alive when the kingdom came **B** were not alive when the kingdom came

True false(Mark the correct answer)

1. The Holy Ghost came on the apostles with power in Acts 2 T _____ F _____
2. The kingdom was to come in the lifetime of some who heard Christ preach T _____ F _____
3. A Christian is not a member of the church T _____ F _____
4. Christ is the head of the body, the church T _____ F _____
5. People who have been baptized into Christ are Christians T _____ F _____

LESSON THREE: The church, part 2

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. The church is **A** the family of God **B** the temple of God **C** the body of Christ **D** all of these
2. The tabernacle of God today is **A** the building where Christians meet **B** the church **C** something found by Indiana Jones
3. “Preeminence” means **A** a light bulb **B** a Catholic cardinal **C** the church does what Christ tells it to do.
4. The “new name” prophesied by Isaiah in chapter 62 was **A** Catholic **B** Christian **C** Protestant
5. When are we washed in the blood of Christ? **A** when we were born **B** when we are baptized into Christ **C** Never

Fill in the blanks (Circle the correct answer)

1. 1 Timothy 3:15, “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the _____ of _____, which is the _____ of the living God”
2. Ephesians 6:4-6, “There is one _____, and one Spirit, even as ye are _____ in one _____ of your calling; one _____, one _____, one _____, one _____ and Father of all, who is above all through all and in you all”
3. Acts 11:26. “And the _____ were called _____ first in _____”
4. The church is the _____ (tabernacle) of _____ because God _____ in the church.

5. Isaiah 62:2, "And the Gentiles shall see thy _____ and all _____ thy glory: and thou shalt be _____ by a new _____ which the mouth of the _____ shall name"

True false(Mark the correct answer)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. God has no family on earth | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Christians are a royal priesthood | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. The first Christians believed in Christ, but were not baptized | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. A person can enter the kingdom without being born again | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. The word "Christian" is the new name prophesied by Isaiah and given by God | T _____ F _____ |

LESSON FOUR: The church, Part 3

True false (Check the correct answer)

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. The word "church" appears 77 times in the New Testament | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. The holy name disciples are to wear today is "Christian" | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. The holy name disciples are to wear is "Catholic" | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Christians are to wear the name of Christ and not a man made name | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. The church belongs to God because we are his family | T _____ F _____ |

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

- The name baptized believers is to wear is the name **A** Mormon **B** Catholic **C** Christian
- The word "Christian" means **A** one who belongs to Christ **B** Jew **C** Protestant **D** Catholic
- The disciples were called Christians first in **A** Jerusalem **B** Rome **C** Antioch
- The disciples came together to break bread (take the Lord's Supper) on **A** the second day of the week **B** the seventh day of the week **C** the first day of the week **D** any day of the week
- The word "church" appears in the New Testament **A** only once **B** 77 times **C** never

FILL IN THE BLANKS

- Acts 11:26, "And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the _____ and taught much people. And the _____ were called _____ first in Antioch"
- Your phone book lists the names of scores of different _____ with different _____, the majority of which are not even found in the _____.
- "And upon the _____ day of the week, when the disciples came together to _____ bread, Paul preached unto them" (Acts 20:7).
- _____ Christians are _____ (set apart from the world).
- The _____ belongs to _____ because we are his family.

LESSON FIVE: THE CHURCH, Part 4

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Each local church is overseen by **A** elders **B** the pope **C** a group of preachers
2. The word "deacon" means **A** the leader of the church **B** one who serves **C** the wife of an elder
3. The two items of Christian which is to be done only on the Lord's Day are: **A** singing and praying
B preaching and praying **C** giving of our means and the Lord's Supper
4. God's instrument for use in music is **A** a five-piece band **B** a harp **C** the human heart
5. How many elders should oversee the local church? **A** one **B** seven **C** at least two

True false (Mark the correct answer)

1. Christians in the Bible took the Lord's Supper every first day of the week T _____ F _____
2. Christians do not have to give any money to the Lord T _____ F _____
3. The human heart is God's instrument, not a banjo T _____ F _____
4. The Lord's Supper can be taken on Saturday morning T _____ F _____
5. The New Testament is the only law which God gave to the church T _____ F _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The New Testament does not call a _____ a pastor unless he also is an _____ as was the apostle _____.
2. "And upon the _____ day of the week when the _____ came together to _____ bread, Paul preached unto them..." (Acts 20:7)
3. "God is a _____ and they that _____ him must worship him in _____ and in _____" (John 4:24)
4. "Till I come, give attendance to _____, to _____, to _____" (1 Timothy 4:13)
5. "All _____ is given by _____ of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16)

LESSON SIX: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Jesus will come again **A** in the clouds **B** on the earth **C** never
2. At the second coming, these will be raised: **A** only the good **B** only the bad **C** all will be raised.
3. After Jesus returns, the earth **A** will still be here **B** will be consumed by fire **C** will be transferred to Mars
4. Who will rise from the dead first? **A** only the apostles **B** Jesus **C** the dead in Christ
5. Jesus returned **A** in 1914 **B** Jesus has not returned yet **C** in 1988

TRUE FALSE

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. We know exactly when Jesus is going to return to the earth | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. The word "rapture" is found nowhere in the New Testament | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. All the dead will be raised when Jesus comes again | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. The world will be destroyed when Jesus comes again | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. The word "ever" means Jesus will not return to earth as many teach today | T _____ | F _____ |

Fill in the blanks

- 2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must _____ appear before the judgment seat of _____; that every one may receive the _____ done in his _____".
- 2 Peter 3:10, "But the day of the _____ - will come as a _____ in the night; in the which the _____ shall pass away with as great _____, and the elements shall melt with fervent _____; the _____ also..."
- Revelation 1:7, "Behold he cometh with _____ and _____ eye shall see him..."
- John 5:28,29, "For the hour is coming, in the which _____ that in the _____ shall hear his voice and shall come forth; they that have done _____ unto the resurrection of _____ and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of _____"
- Matthew 24:36, "But of that _____ and _____ knoweth no _____, no, not the _____ of heaven, but my Father only"

LESSON SEVEN: THE JUDGMENT, HEAVEN AND HELL

Fill in the blanks

- James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do _____ and doeth it not, to him it is _____"
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9, "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from _____ with his mighty angels, in flaming _____ taking vengeance on them that _____ not God and that _____ not the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- Revelation 21:3, "Behold, the _____ of God is with _____, and he will _____ with them and they shall be his _____"
- 1 Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the _____ of God which is the _____ of the living God"
- Matthew 25:30, "And cast ye the _____ servant into outer _____; there shall be _____ and _____ of teeth".

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. These people will go to heaven: **A** those that just believe in Christ **B** those that believe and obey the gospel of Christ **C** everyone
2. The tabernacle of God is: **A** in Jerusalem and is the mount of Olives **B** a tent located in Shiloh **C** on earth and is the church
3. Hell is described as: **A** eternal **B** a great darkness **C** the second death **D** all of these
4. Heaven is: **A** a prepared place for a prepared people **B** a beautiful place **C** where there is no pain, sickness or dying **D** all of these
5. The message of Christ's salvation is: **A** a Catholic catechism **B** the book of Mormon **C** the gospel of Christ

TRUE FALSE (Mark the correct answer)

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| 1. Wicked unbelievers will indeed go to hell | T _____ | F _____ |
| 2. We will be judged according to our works | T _____ | F _____ |
| 3. No person will escape the judgment | T _____ | F _____ |
| 4. The world will not be destroyed at the second coming of Christ | T _____ | F _____ |
| 5. Jesus is going to return in the clouds | T _____ | F _____ |